

Examination of Sujiang.

Sujiang, a Suluk woman, of Dinawan Island, duly sworn, states:

My name is Sujiang. I was born in Gaya Island. I am a Suluk. My age is 21. My home is in Dinawan Island. I live there now. My husband's name was Keraro. He was 31 at the time of his death.

On the night of the double-tenth (10.10.43) my husband and the other men of this Island were not at sea. They were at home and we all saw the fire in Jesselton across the water about 12 miles away. My husband and the other men of this Island did not take part in the fighting against the Japs. We continued to earn our living by fishing and growing food. At that time there were about 130 people on Dinawan Island.

One day after the rising, the Japanese came to the Island and arrested all the men. The Japanese said our men had burnt the custom house and killed Japanese. There were 37 men arrested. My husband Keraro was among them. I have never seen him or any of the men again.

A month or two afterwards, the Japanese came again and took all of us women, and the children, to Gaya Island and told us we were not to leave the Island. Ninety one women and children were taken to Gaya. There was not enough to eat in the Island. About 27 of us died during the 15 months we were there, from starvation. When the war ended, we went to Papar, and thence we returned to Dinawan.

When we arrived at Dinawan, we found what looked like two long graves, at a place about 200 yards away from the kampung. These are the graves that I showed Capt. Dickson on 27.3.46. We dug in the two graves and found many bodies. There was no flesh left on the bones. The bodies were laid together loosely and we did not dig out separately each skeleton. We collected the heads and found there were 37. I found one that I recognised as my husband's. The shape of the skull was similar to that of my husband's: he had a broader forehead than most of our men. But I recognised it chiefly by the teeth which were still in good order in the jaws.

- (1) The teeth of this head were black like my husband's.  
It is true that many Suluk men have blackened teeth.
- (2) The teeth of this head were filed flat. Most Suluk men file their teeth but usually only three in front. My

husband had all his lower teeth filed and none on the upper jaw. This corresponded with the teeth in the skull.

- (3) My husband had some back teeth missing, as there were in this skull.
- (4) My husband had three gold teeth together in the centre of the upper jaw, as the skull had.

All these things together convinced me that I had found the skull of my husband. After I had found my husband's skull, none of the other women continued to search for their husbands'. We were too unhappy to continue gazing at these skulls. We were satisfied that these were our own men and we did not wish to seek out our husbands after I had found mine. So we buried the bones and skulls in the grave where we had found them.

I did not see any wound on my husband's skull. From the way the heads and bodies lay in the grave, I do not think the men had been beheaded.

The names of some of the other men were: O.T. Ibrahim, Mojun, Sapalu, Mouyuk, Sewali (two men of this name), Kannum, Ittun, Situngai, Melud, Ancu, Sikcu, Sinur, Utup, Pangayam, Tamahok, Sabi, Dugang, Halun, Amir Hassan, Penet, Bulkia, Buhangsi, Semuda, Berara.

Thumbprint and mark of Sujiang.

I CERTIFY that I translated into Bajau the Malay that Capt. Dickson has read to me, to the above witness prior to her thumbprint and mark which appear above.

(Signed) Diasin

I translated the above summary from English to Malay to Diasin who acted as interpreter.

(Signed) M. G. Dickson

Sworn before me, M.G. Dickson, No. 8 W.C.I.T., this 27th day of March, 1946, detailed to examine the above by C in C ALFSEA

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Signed) M. G. DICKSON  
Capt.